

CLAIMS

1. Process for eliminating/reducing compounds with a musty taste/odour in materials that are to come into contact with foodstuffs and in foods or drinks, characterised in that it relates to the reduction/elimination of 2,4,6-trichloroanisole (TCA) in materials that are to come into contact with foodstuffs and in foods or drinks, based on irradiation with gamma rays at a radiation dose in the range of 15 to 400 kGy, preferably between 90 and 110 kGy and most preferably 100 kGy, reducing the concentration of this compound to levels below the detection limits for consumers.
2. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that it is preferably applied to cork stoppers.
3. Process according to claims 1 and 2, characterised in that it is preferably applied to cork stoppers packed as a final product in sealed plastic bags placed inside cardboard boxes.
4. Process according to claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the products to be treated are positioned in a geometric layout close to a gamma irradiation source (for example Co^{60}), at a distance and for a period of time sufficient for supplying a radiation dose necessary for the molecular degradation of the TCA.
5. Process according to claim 4, whereby this molecular degradation makes it possible to reduce the concentration of the TCA to levels below the detection limits for consumers.
6. Process according to claims 4 and 5, characterised in that the radiation dose range is 15 to 400 kGy, preferably 90 to 110 kGy and most preferably 100 kGy.
7. Process according to claims 1, 4 and 6, characterised in that this process can also be applied to cork slabs or to cork granulate, i.e. suberous material at an intermediate phase in the production of cork stoppers made of natural cork or technical corks (made of agglomerate cork or agglomerate cork with cork discs).
Process according to claims 1, 4 and 6, characterised in that this process can also be applied to foods and/or drinks, preferably packaged products.

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8. Products that are to come into contact with foodstuffs, especially cork or cork stoppers or packaging, and also foods or drinks, treated according to claim 1.

9. Products that are to come into contact with foodstuffs, especially cork or cork stoppers or packaging, and also foods or drinks, treated according to claim 1.